



Society of Appalachian Historians Annual Meeting
May 20-21, 2024
Special Collections Reading Room
West Virginia State Archives
Charleston, West Virginia

Monday, May 20

Registration

8:30 a.m. Outside Special Collections

8:55 a.m. Welcome

9:00 a.m.

Session 1: Rethinking Established Frameworks for Understanding Appalachia

- Moderator: Steven Nash (East Tennessee State University)
- Faith Leone (University of Michigan)—The Crisis in Kentucky: W. E. B. DuBois, the 1931-32 Harlan Struggle, and Racial Capitalism in Appalachia.
- Kevin Slovinsky (University of Kentucky)—Debility and the Mine-to-Poorhouse Pipeline: Judicious Mixture as Infrastructural Warfare in Southwestern Pennsylvania's Coal Mining Communities.
- Kari Thomas (Carnegie Mellon University)—The Effects of the Extractive Colony Paradigm on the Public Memory of the Labor Movement in West Virginia.
- Hal Gorby (West Virginia University)—Protecting Our Jobs: Working Class Organization and the Glass Workers Protective League in West Virginia.

10:45 a.m.

Session 2: Reform and Reaction: The Influence of Women on the Public Sphere in Appalachia

- Moderator: T.R.C. Hutton (Glenville State University)
- Cody Straley (Marshall University)—A Union State’s Confederate Hero: Stonewall Jackson and the Triumph of the Lost Cause Movement in West Virginia.
- Allen Fletcher (University of Kentucky)—“Roads and Schools”: Appalachian Women and the Building of an Educational Welfare State, 1929-1945.
- Deborah Blackwell (Texas A&M International University)—Appalachian Historiography in the 21st Century.

Lunch 12:30-2:00

2:00 p.m.

Session 3: Digital, Oral, and Community History

- Moderator: Rebecca Bailey (Northern Kentucky University)
- Troy D. Smith, Olivia Howell, April Riley, and Chloe Alto (Tennessee Tech University)—Tennessee Tech University Rural Appalachian Crime Digital Humanities Project.
- Christina Fisanick (Pennsylvania Western University)—Digital Storytelling as Public History: A Decade of Telling Stories from Northern Appalachia’s Past.
- Lou Martin (Chatham University); Hailey McElhiney and Mattie Kuechler (Northern Kentucky University); and Kenzie New-Walker, Lloyd Tomlinson, Thomas Jude, and Candace Bennett (West Virginia Mine Wars Museum)—Oral History and Coalfield Communities.

Tuesday, May 21

9:00 a.m.

Session 4: Contested Environments

- Moderator: Lloyd Tomlinson (West Virginia Mine Wars Museum)
- James Allison (Christopher Newport University)—Seeing Coal (Part Two): Geology, Local Boosters, and Nineteenth-Century Appalachian Coal Development.
- Benjamin Woodard (Princeton University)—Tug Valley Transgressors: Interstate Law Enforcement, Industrializing Appalachia, and the Baisden Gang of Pigeon Greek.
- Edward Slavishak (Susquehanna University)—The Steeper They Come: Convict Road-Building in Western Virginia in the 1920s.
- Benjamin Susman (West Virginia University)—Public-Private Preservation: The Activism of the National Parks Association in and around Appalachia, 1944-1980.

10:45 a.m.

Session 5: Agrarianism in 20th Century Appalachia

- Moderator: Aaron Parsons (West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History)
- Luke Manget (Western Carolina University)—Creating Appalachia: Morris Mitchell and the Quest for a “Viable Alternative.”
- Jinny Turman (UVa-Wise)—“The Small, the Human, and the Grass-Roots”: Understanding the Back-to-the-Land Movement as an Expression of the Politics of Localism.
- Mikaela Poling and Craig Dufresne (Independent Scholars)—History of the Moss Farm of Sand Run in Upshur County, West Virginia.

Lunch 12:30-2:00

2:00 p.m.

Session 6:

- Moderator: Tom Kiffmeyer (Morehead State University)
- James Owen (University of Georgia)—“Causing the Wilderness to Blossom as the Rose”: Cherokee Baptists and the Right to Remain in Their Homelands after 1838.
- Barry Whittemore (University of North Georgia)—F. P. Branscome, Primitive Baptist Elder and Publisher: Not What Most People Expect.